

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 06130 131327Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0015

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB GR

SUBJECT: LABOR: TOP LABOR CONFEDERATION URGES WORKERS
TO ASSIST GOVERNMENT IN CONFRONTING INTERNAL AND EX-
TERNAL DANGERS

REF: ATHENS 5567

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF
GREEK WORKERS (GSEE) ISSUED A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER
ITS MEETING ON AUGUST 8. IT NOTED THAT SERIOUS EXTERNAL
AND DOMESTIC DANGERS CONTINUE TO THREATEN THE NATION
AND IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL GREEKS - ESPECIALLY THE
WORKERS - TO LEND ITS WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT TO THE
GOVERNMENT IN CONFRONTING THEM. IT URGED THE WORKERS
TO BE "ALERT" TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND THE PEOPLE'S
FREEDOMS AGAINST BOTH CONSPIRATORS AND THOSE WHO "FEEL
NOSTALGIA FOR TYRANNY" - AMONG WHOM MAY BE FOUND
"AGENTS OF FOREIGN INTERESTS". NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND
TV GAVE WIDE PLAY TO ANNOUNCEMENT OVER PAST WEEKEND.

2. GSEE FURTHER APPEALED TO WORKERS TO CONSULT THEIR
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 06130 131327Z

FEDERATIONS OR MAJOR CENTERS BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION

OR EFFECTING ANY DEMONSTRATION AIMED AT RESOLVING OUTSTANDING LABOR ISSUES OUTSIDE NORMAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OR NEGOTIATING VENUES. GSEE ASSERTED THAT CLAIMS OF WORKERS WHEN PRESENTED IN THE PROPER FORUM SHOULD BE MADE "SERIOUSLY" AND SHOULD NOT MERELY PRESENT "FAITS ACCOMPLI" WHICH WOULD LEAD TO DEADLOCKS.

3. GSEE ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO APPEALED TO MANAGEMENT CLASS NOT TO AGITATE THE WORKERS AND PUBLIC SENTIMENT BY ANTI-LABOR ACTIONS. IT SUGGESTED THAT IT IS THE SPECIAL DUTY OF THE "ECONOMICALLY STRONGER CLASS" TO SAFEGUARD SOCIAL PEACE. IT REMINDED THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT HAS THE DUTY TO CLEANSE THE STATE MACHINERY FROM "ELEMENTS ACTING AGAINST DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS". FINALLY, STATEMENT NOTED IT IS "NOT ACCIDENTAL" THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THOSE ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE CONCURRENT WITH THE TRIALS OF THE APRIL 1967 PROTAGONISTS AND THE FEBRUARY 24 CONSPIRATORS.

4. COMMENT. GSEE UNDOUBTEDLY STILL SENSITIVE TO FACT THAT MOST SERIOUS RECENT CIVIC DISTURBANCE (JULY 23) WAS CAUSED BY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS (REFTEL) WHO HAD ACTED INDEPENDENTLY OF ESTABLISHED LABOR ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP. CURRENT STATEMENT UNDOUBTEDLY GEARED BOTH TO SEPARATE "LEGITIMATE LABOR" IN MIND OF THE PUBLIC FROM DISSIDENT ELEMENTS WHO DISREGARD TRADE UNION DISCIPLINE AND BREAK RANKS WITH ESTABLISHED LABOR HIERARCHY, AS WELL AS TO APPEAL TO ALL WORKERS TO CLOSE RANKS AND SUPPORT LEGITIMATE TRADITIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST DIVISIVE TENDENCIES FROM WHATEVER SOURCE.
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